



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Submerged Oil Working Group
29 November 2011 at Clean Gulf in San Antonio, TX

Meeting Notes

Participants:

Nancy Kinner, CRRC/UNH
Dave Fritz, BP
Kurt Hansen, USCG (call)
Lori Medley, BSEE
Jacqui Michel, RPI

David Moore, BOEM
Hung Nguyen, BSEE
Debbie Payton, NOAA
Chris Pfeifer, ENTRIX
Kelly Shnapp, BSEE

I. Update Reports:

- USCG R&D Center (Kurt Hansen)
 - i. Last experiment of 3 vendors findings: a) ROV configuration (Alion) collected some oil but had problems with controlling the nozzle and most of the oil did not make it all of the way to the collection area. More powerful ROVs and a smaller nozzle area (from 8 inch diameter to 2-3 inches) could address these issues; b) Manned submersible (Marine Pollution Control) –The submersible was too large for the tank so a test rig was constructed with sensors, lights and a robot arm that simulated the configuration of the sub. It was able to recover a large amount of oil but also collected large amounts of water and sand. The pump was very powerful and this is needed to collect the viscous oil but without more modifications and changes in the collection control process, water and sand will continue to be a problem; c) Submersible Crawler,(Oil Stop) - again, this system was too large for the tank so the pump was mounted on an excavator. It had many of the same problems as the manned submersible, collecting a large amount of water.
 - ii. Uncertain of whether there will be field tests (will make decision in Jan 2012) Field test of the Alion and Oil Stop will be conducted this summer.
 - iii. Preliminary report out Spring 2012
 - iv. No other work planned.
 - v. Probably in FY2012, possibly \$ down to pre-DWH levels
 - vi. A Broad Agency Announcement was sent out to detect oil in the water column based on an Athos I type spill in rivers and coastal areas. We are trying to build on experiences of Deepwater Horizon. Expect to award contracts in early CY12.
- API (per Dave Fritz)
 - i. Detection and recovery of sunken oil underwater occurred during DWH. [NOTE from Dave Fritz later: I was falsely optimistic that API would find

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some money for inland sunken oil detection/recovery. It will not happen this year.]

- ii. Some of the systems tested were documented by BP (Mike Cortez) – Mike Cortez is leading a team on an API project to provide guidance on sunken oil detection/recovery.
- BSEE (Lori Medley)
 - ARA ultrasound project (Paul Pinetta) ~\$300k
 - CRRC (Nancy Kinner)
 - Bruce Hollebone project is in final stages
- II. Next Submerged Oil Working Group Meeting: to be held in conjunction with Clean Gulf, 2012